

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 00249 231632Z

62

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5009

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSULATE DOUALA VIA POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, PBOR, EK, GB

SUBJECT: AMOCO REPS VISIT EQUATORIAL GUINEA

REF: (A) YAOUNDE 3385; (B) DOUALA A-24, OCT. 8, 1974;

(C) YAOUNDE 4029

1. SUMMARY: AMOCO REPS ACCOMPANIED BY DOUALA
CONSUL MITHOEFER VISITED EQUATORIAL GUINEA FROM JANUARY
16-18 AND SAW PRESIDENT MACIAS, VICE FOREIGN MINISTER
AND VICE MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES. MEETINGS CON-
DUCTED IN CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE WITH AMOCO REPS BEING TOLD
TO PREPARE CONCESSION AGREEMENT FOR WHATEVER THEY
WANT AND E.G. WILL STUDY AND GIVE RESPONSE. END
SUMMARY.

2. AMOCO VICE PRESIDENT FOR NEGOTIATIONS WILLIAM
HUMPHREY, ACCOMPANIED BY COMPANY LAWYERS HART AND
KENNEL, ARRIVED DOUALA JANUARY 14 TO VISIT E.G. TO
DISCUSS POSSIBLE PETROLEUM EXPLORATION CONCESSION.
JANUARY 16-17 PARTY TRAVELLED BATA ACCOMPANIED AT
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PAGE 02 YAOUND 00249 231632Z

THEIR REQUEST BY CONSUL MITHOEFER. EVENING OF 16TH

GROUP SPENT OVER AN HOUR WITH PRESIDENT MACIAS. HUMPHREY SPOKE IN SPANISH AND OUTLINED AMOCO DESIRE HAVE AREA BETWEEN MAINLAND AND ISLAND FOR SEIMIC STUDY AND DRILLING OF WELLS, WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT EXPLOITATION IN DEEP WATER WOULD AWAIT DEVELOPMENT TECHNOLOGY TO LIFT PRODUCT. HE ALSO POINTED OUT AMOCO HAD MINERALS DIVISION WHICH INVOLVED IN ZAIRE COPPER CONCESSION AND WOULD BE INTERESTED IN FINDING IF THERE ANY MINERAL RESOURCES TO BE EXPLOITED.

3. PRESIDENT MACIAS TURNED ON CHARN AND SAID AMOCO COULD HAVE ANY AREA IT WANTED EITHER ON OR OFF SHORE, EXCEPT FOR ARACCA CONCESSION (REF B). HE WAS SURE THAT E.G. WAS RICH IN MINERAL RESOURCES AND HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM DEVELOPED FOR BENEFIT OF COUNTRY. HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY PREVIOUS AMERICAN COMPANIES HOLDING CONCESSIONS (MOBIL AND CHEVRON) HAD RENOUNCED THEIR CONCESSION AREAS AND WHY USG WAS NOT GIVING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOP COUNTRY. HE REPEATED HIS FAVORABLE IMPRESSION U.S. AND AMERICANS. FINALLY HE GAVE FULL EXPLANATION HIS BORDER PROBLEMS WITH GABON ALONG LINES REFTEL A. ALL AMOCO HAD TO DO WAS COME UP WITH A DRAFT CONTRACT FOR E.G. TO STUDY AND HE WAS SURE THEY COULD REACH AGREEMENT. IN ORDER OBTAIN DETAILS OF EXISTING LAWS HE SUGGESTED THEY SEE VICE FOREIGN MINISTER BONIFACIO NGUEMA ESONO WHO WOULD PUT THEM IN CONTACT WITH VICE MINISTER NATURAL RESOURCES AND ELECTRICITY NEMESIO ABAGA OBURU.

4. DURING JAN 18 VISIT MALABO, AMOCO REPS SAW VICE FOREIGN MINISTER WHO GREETED THEM WARMLY AND SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS EAGER TO HAVE AMOCO GAIN A CONCESSION AREA. INDICATED, AS PRESIDENT HAD ALSO SAID JAN 16, HOW PLEASED THEY WERE THAT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HAD MADE CONTACT AND THEY WERE WELL ACQUAINTED WITH AMOCO BY ITS GOOD REPUTATION. HE PROMPTLY MADE APPOINTMENT FOR THEM TO SEE VICE MINISTER NATURAL RESOURCES. LATTER ALSO GREETED REPS CORDIALLY. HOWEVER, HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A PROPOSAL OF WHAT THEY WANTED TO DO BEFORE HE ENTERED INTO CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS. ALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 YAOUND 00249 231632Z

EFFORTS ELICIT INFORMATION ON WHAT LAWS WERE IN FORCE WERE MET WITH VAGUE RESPONSES.

5. COMMENT: AMOCO REPS CONSIDERED THAT VISIT WAS A SUCCESS IN ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH E.G. OFFICIALS AND FELT ENCOURAGED SEEK CONCESSION AREA. THEY HOPE STUDY SPANISH LAWS AND COME US WITH AGREEMENT WITH BUILT-IN ADVANTAGES WHICH WOULD DIS-

COURAGE EXPROPRIATION. LARGE MEASURE OF SUCCESS
OF MISSION DUE TO HUMPHREY'S SPANISH-LANGUAGE ABILITY
AND LACK NECESSITY USE TRANSLATION TO COMMUNICATE.
MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ENDED WITH WARM EMBRACES.
MOORE

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